

**In the Claims:**

**Please cancel claims 7-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

**Please rewrite claims 1 and 3 as follows:**

1. (Currently Amended) A ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber comprising:  
a plurality of polarization-maintaining fibers; and  
~~wherein~~ a ribbon portion having first and second lateral ends, and a length of 2  
to 300 mm is formed insurrounding at least some of the polarization-maintaining  
fibers, the polarization-maintaining fibers extending individually from the second  
lateral end of the ribbon portion.
2. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim  
1, wherein said ribbon portion is one formed by fixing and coating said polarization-  
maintaining fibers with an adhesive, and aligning end faces of said polarization-  
maintaining fibers which are used at least as a signal so as to become a predetermined  
plane of polarization.
3. (Currently Amended) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according  
to claim 1,  
~~wherein said ribbon portion further comprising is provided with a~~ positioning  
means for maintaining alignment of said polarization-maintaining fibers.
4. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim  
3, wherein said positioning means is formed as a series of convex and concave shapes.
5. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim  
4, wherein said convex and concave shapes are disposed at a regular pitch or  
discontinuously.
6. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim  
5, wherein said convex and concave shapes are formed as a saw tooth shape or a  
curved wavy shape.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'H. H. H. H.', is written over the text 'Claims 7-19 (Cancelled)'. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Claims 7-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A polarization-maintaining optical fiber array made of a ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim 1.


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**In the Abstract:**

**Please amend the Abstract as shown below:**

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Abstract of the Disclosure



~~To provide a~~ A ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber ~~is used~~ capable of not  
only to easily manufacturing manufacture a polarization-maintaining optical fiber  
array with multiple fibers ~~but also improving~~ and improve the work efficiency and  
yield, ~~and a manufacturing method therefor, and a polarization-maintaining optical~~  
~~fiber array using the ribboned fiber.~~ A ~~The~~ ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber  
~~is formed of~~ includes a plurality of polarization-maintaining fibers, and ~~partially~~ has  
a ribbon portion of 2 to 300 mm in length surrounding at least some of the  
polarization-maintaining fibers. ~~This~~ The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber is  
manufactured by arranging the polarization-maintaining fibers with an exact pitch  
width while the end face of the polarization-maintaining fibers ~~is~~ are rotationally  
adjusted so as to have a predetermined plane of polarization and then by fixing and  
coating a part thereof by and with an adhesive, thereby forming a ~~the~~ ribbon  
portion.

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